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New Citywide Speed Limit for Burlington: 25 mph

The new 25 mile per hour citywide speed limit for the City of Burlington will go into effect in late November. All city streets except Route 127, North Avenue, Plattsburg Avenue, Shelburne Street, Lake Street, and Church Street will be subject to the new speed limit.

The adoption by the Public Works Commission of the 25mph citywide speed limit is the culmination of a long process that began with a City Council resolution in 2000. This eventually led to traffic studies and the inclusion by the Transportation Plan Steering Committee of the recommended 25mph speed limit in the draft of the city's Transportation Plan. Following the public involvement component of the plan's development, they considered and included the recommendation for 25 mph city wide speed limits in the final plan. The Transportation Plan was then reviewed and approved by the Public Works Commission, the Planning Commission, the Transportation, Energy and Utilities Committee of the City Council, and the full City Council in April 2011.

Following the city Council adoption, the Public Works Commission held public hearings and on Oct. 19 2011 adopted the ordinance establishing the 25mph speed limit.

Several important factors were considered when making this decision:

- 1) Although some features differ, the city is committed to the principles that our streets are for all users and we want streets that attract and encourage multi-modal transportation.
- 2) Speed limits should be a function of street design. The engineering study that underlies the Transportation Plan found that most of our streets are designed to facilitate a travel speed of 25mph.
- 3) Decreased speeds result in less severe injuries when accidents occur. The reduction in severity from 30mph to 25mph is about 50%.

With these principles taken into account, as well as a desire to establish a uniform speed limit in the city rather than the "checkerboard" patchwork of speed limits that exist today, the Public Works Commission adopted the 25mph limit.

In the coming weeks signs will be installed at the entrances to the city and possibly a several other locations informing people of the speed limit in Burlington. Public Works and the Police Department will also undertake an information campaign to make people aware of the speed limit and the need to adhere to it.

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